

MYRON WAYNE BODTKER ,)
)
 Plaintiff,) ORDER
)
 v.)
)
 WAL-MART, INC.,)
)
 Defendant.)
 _____)

During a status conference on March 1, 2024, the mediation deadline was discussed, and the parties were given an opportunity to contact Mr. Dunn regarding his availability for a conference by the original mediation deadline. Subsequently, the undersigned, acting *sua sponte*, extended the deadline for mediation to and including March 27, 2024.

The parties have known since the Pretrial Order was entered more than 9 months ago that they had an obligation to engage in a mediated settlement conference. They have provided no legitimate reason why limited judicial resources should be expended so that a magistrate judge can preside over a judicial settlement conference, in lieu of the parties participating in a private mediation in the ordinary course. Accordingly, the Motion is **DENIED**.

In addition, the parties are **ADVISED** that, if they fail to complete a mediated settlement conference by the court-ordered deadline, they may be required to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed against each of them. See Rule 16(f). The parties are also advised that no motion requesting a further extension of the mediation deadline will be considered unless it identifies a specific date for mediation and states that the date has been confirmed with a specific mediator.

It is so ordered.

Signed: March 20, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Carleton Metcalf", written over a horizontal line.

W. Carleton Metcalf
United States Magistrate Judge

